

was engulfed in flames and witnesses stated that the victim would have died prior to the arrival of the first responding emergency unit without Firefighter Loving's heroic actions.

Please join me in congratulating Firefighter David Loving and the four other recipients of the National Public Safety Medal of Valor award this year and in thanking these exceptional public safety officers for their service, dedication, and heroism.

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL H. MICHAEL DAVIS

HON. NANCY E. BOYDA

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 13, 2007

Mrs. BOYDA of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I hope the House will join me today to pay tribute to an exceptional patriot and Officer in the United States Army, Colonel H. Michael Davis, upon his retirement from active military service.

Colonel Davis's distinguished career spans over 30 years of service to our great Nation, culminating as Chief of Staff of the Combined Arms Center at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. A native of South Carolina, he was commissioned Regular Army as an Armor Officer from the University of Tennessee in 1978. He has commanded with distinction at every level from company to regiment including the 2nd Battalion, 69th Armor Regiment, the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, Blackhorse, and Operations Group, Combat Maneuver Training Center. He has held instrumental staff positions from troop executive officer to the Chief of Staff at the National Training Center and now at the Combined Arms Center.

Colonel Davis has attended several military schools, including the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, and the Naval War College. He holds a bachelor of science degree in industrial management from the University of Tennessee and a master of arts degree in national security and strategic studies from the Naval War College. He also served as a Professor in the Joint Military Operations Department at the Naval War College from 1997–1999.

In his more than 30 years of service, he has earned the Legion of Merit with one Oak Leaf Cluster, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters, the Army Commendation Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters, and the Army Achievement Medal with one Oak Leaf Cluster. He also holds the Parachutist Badge and the Ranger Tab. Upon his retirement, he will be awarded the Distinguished Service Medal.

I ask my colleagues to join me today to thank Colonel Davis, his wife Ann, and his entire family for the commitment, sacrifice and contribution that they have made throughout his honorable military career.

RECOGNIZING WALSH COLLEGE AND THE DEDICATION OF THE JEFFERY W. BARRY CENTER

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 13, 2007

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Madam Speaker, I want to recognize Walsh College of Accountancy and Business Administration in Troy, Michigan as they dedicate the newest addition to their campus, the Jeffery W. Barry Center on December 14, 2007.

When Walsh College was founded in 1922, it was a specialized accounting institute that taught 150 students in Detroit. However, it wasn't until 1970, when Walsh's third president, Jeffery W. Barry, took over that the school grew into what we see today. Under Mr. Barry's leadership, Walsh College transformed from a small specialized institute into a business college granting bachelors and masters degrees.

When Mr. Barry stepped down in 1991, Walsh had an enrollment of over 3,300 students. However, since his tenure Walsh's enrollment has continued to grow and today has over 4,500 students with campuses in Troy, Novi, and Clinton Township. In addition, Walsh offers over twenty different bachelors and masters degrees, and certifications.

The culmination of Mr. Barry's vision will be the new Jeffery W. Barry Center which will open for classes in the winter of 2008. The 36,000 square foot, environmentally sustainable Barry Center features an expanded, modern library, an auditorium, and additional classrooms. It is designed to meet the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design ratings for water and energy efficiency, pollution control, recycling, and indoor environmental quality.

Mr. Barry passed away on July 8, 2006, but his spirit lives on. The Barry Center embodies his legacy of educational outreach and excellence, as it doubles the size of Walsh's main campus. In addition, this fall Walsh will be offering its first ever doctoral degree, a Doctor of Management in Executive Leadership.

Madam Speaker, today I commend Walsh College for their continued commitment to Jeffery W. Barry's vision. I wish them luck and prosperity as they dedicate this new edition, and hope for many years of success.

HONORING KENTUCKY'S SPECIAL OLYMPICS WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 13, 2007

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Kentucky's Special Olympics Women's Basketball team for capturing the gold medal at the 2007 Special Olympics World Games in Shanghai, China. Members of the team include: Sheila Crowson, Kay Gregory, Crystal Matson, Mary Ann Wilcome, Natalie Williams, Kelly King, Marcie Blandford, Jennifer Hamilton, and Taylor Thompson.

The team qualified to be one of two teams to represent the United States by winning the

2006 Kentucky State Tournament. In preparation for their trip to China, the team joined 400 other athletes in Nashville, Tennessee at a Team USA Training Camp.

In China, the women were joined by almost 7,500 other athletes from around the world competing in 25 different Olympic-type sports. The team started the games with an 0–3 start but their fortunes quickly changed. In the all important medal round, the team went undefeated. Their victories included an upset win over an undefeated Serbian team and their 21–6 victory over Tunisia in the Gold Medal game.

I would like to congratulate the players and their coaches for this impressive achievement, particularly Head Coach Brent Belcher and Assistant Coaches Derek Shadoan and Jennifer Siebold for their hard work and dedication. Also, I would also like to thank the Bowling Green community for their generous support that allowed the team to participate in the Summer Games. The players and coaches raised over \$22,000 from businesses, civic groups, and individuals.

It is my privilege to recognize the Kentucky Special Olympics Women's Basketball team today, before the entire House of Representatives, for winning the Gold Medal at the 2007 Special Olympics World Games. Their hard work and success has made the entire Commonwealth of Kentucky proud.

A RESOLUTION HONORING AND SUPPORTING THE HADLEY SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 13, 2007

Mr. KIRK. Madam Speaker, today I am pleased to join with Congresswoman SCHAKOWSKY to introduce a resolution honoring and supporting the Hadley School for the Blind.

Dr. William A. Hadley, an Illinois high school teacher, lost his vision at age 55. With the loss of his sight Dr. Hadley believed that he would also lose his greatest joy—teaching. Although he taught himself Braille so he could continue to read, he was frustrated with the lack of educational opportunities for blind individuals.

Dr. Hadley wanted to help others like him gain the skills and knowledge that could lead to independence. In 1920, Dr. Hadley and ophthalmologist Dr. E.V.L. Brown created the Hadley School for the Blind. Today, the Hadley School is the largest single educator of blind persons in the world, reaching 10,000 students annually in all 50 states and in 100 different countries.

The school began with teaching Braille with the innovative use of correspondence courses. While it is still known for its superior Braille curriculum, the school has expanded to offer a high school degree program and adult continuing education classes. In 2008, the School will expand again to include the Hadley School for Professional Studies for professionals who serve those who are blind and visually impaired.

Students from the school have done extraordinary things. Former student Christine Gilson, a blind doctoral candidate and Fulbright scholar from the University of Illinois at